

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 DAMASC 00056 071102Z

51

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 AID-05 INT-05 EB-07 OES-05

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 USIA-15 PA-02 PRS-01

SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 /080 W
----- 078240

R 071024Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2318

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 0056

STATE PASS AID, COMMERCE, INTERIOR (BUREAU OF MINES)

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, BTIO, EMIN, SY

SUBJECT: SYRIAN REQUEST FOR MINERAL AND PETROLEUM EXPLORATION BY
U.S. FIRMS

1. SUMMARY. SINCE RESUMPTION RELATIONS SIX MONTHS AGO, DURING HIGH-
LEVEL SYRIAN VISITS TO U.S. IN FALL, AND CONTINUALLY IN TOP-
LEVEL DISCUSSIONS IN DAMASCUS RE U.S.-SYRIAN BILATERAL ECONOMIC
RELATIONS, SYRIANS HAVE REQUESTED US TO ENCOURAGE INTEREST OF U.S.
FIRMS TO INVESTIGATE SYRIAN MINERAL AND PETROLEUM POTENTIAL.
SPECIFIC REQUEST HAS NOW COMEFROM DEPUTY PRIME
MINISTER. SYRIANS AND WE NEED LIST OF SUITABLE U.S. COMPANIES
AS OUTLINED IN THIS MESSAGE. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING DECMEBER 30 MEETING BETWEEN SARG DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS MOHAMMAD HAYDAR AND AMBASSADOR, HAYDAR
REQUESTED NAMES OF LEADING AMERICAN FIRMS ACTIVE IN ON-THE-GROUND
FEASIBILITY OR PRE-EXPLOITATION SURVEYS OF POTENTIAL MINERAL
DEPOSITS IN SYRIA, SPECIFICALLY NAMING PHOSPHATE, IRON ORE, CHROME,
SULFUR, SALT AND CRUDE PETROLEUM. HAYDAR ALSO EXPRESSED KEEN
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 DAMASC 00056 071102Z

INTEREST IN JAN. 19 TRIP TO U.S. BY SYRIAN EXPERTS TO STUDY ERTS

TECHNOLOGY (DAMASCUS 3026, 3104) AND HOPED THEY WOULD RETURN WITH EXPERIENCE ON HOW SUCH TECHNOLOGY CAN BE USED TO DELINEATE MORE EXACTLY SPECIFIC AREAS OF POTENTIAL MINERAL DEVELOPMENT IN SYRIA.

3. AMBASSADOR NOTED WE HAVE CONTINUED TO ENCOURAGE AMERICAN FIRMS TO INVESTIGATE SYRIAN MINERAL/PETROLEUM POTENTIAL. HE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED DEC. 22 CALL BY AMERICAN EXPRESS MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENT CORP. OFFICIAL ZAHY KHOURI FROM BEIRUT ON SARG PETROLEUM MIN. DR. ADNAN MUSTAFA ON BEHALF OF TRIPCO PETROLEUM GROUP (TRIPCO PETROLEUM INC.; CITY PETROLEUM CO., SUBSIDIARY OF CITY INVESTING CO.; AND DRILLAMEX INC., SUBSIDIARY OF AMERICAN EXPRESS CO.). IN SUPPLYING LIST OF U.S. FIRMS TO HAYDAR, WE ALSO MENTIONED CABLED REQUEST BY KHOURI FOR JAN. 13 MEETING WITH PET MIN MUSTAFA FOR TRIPCO EXECUTIVE JOHN TOLLESON TO DISCUSS OFFSHORE AREAS. WE ALSO REMINDED HAYDAR THAT HIGH-LEVEL AMERICAN EXECUTIVES WORKING IN INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM SECTOR WOULD BE WITH TIME, INC. "NEWSTOUR" VISITING DAMASCUS LATTER PART OF JANUARY (WALTER LEVY, KEN JAMIESON AND FORREST SHUMWAY OF SIGNAL CO. INC.; AND UNNAMED MOBIL EXECUTIVE).

4. COMPANY NAMES WE HAVE PROVIDED TO HAYDAR FROM OUR LIMITED FILES AND AFTER CHECKING WITH BEIRUT, ARE:

A. MINERAL EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT CO.S: AMERICAN METAL CLIMAX, DAMES AND MOORE (LOS ANGELES), H.K. FERGUSON, FLOUR CORP., GEO CONSULTING (TEHRAN), KAISER, TEXASGULF, UNION CARBIDE, AND VAN HOUTEN ASSOCIATES (NEW YORK).

B. MINERAL AND MINING ASSOCIATIONS: AM. INST. OF MINING, METALLURGICAL AND PETROLEUM ENGINEERS, AND MINING AND METALLURGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA.

C. OIL DRILLING AND EXPLORATION: DRESSER, READING AND BATES OFFSHORE DRILLING CO., SANTE FE INTERNATIONAL SERVICES, RAY GEOPHYSICAL DIV. OF MANDRELL INDUSTRIES, AND SCHLUMBERGER.

D. OIL COMPANIES: AMOCO, ATLANTIC RICHFIELD, CALTEX, EXXON, MOBIL, AND GULF.

ADDRESSEES CAN SEE OUR FILES ARE HARDLY COMPREHENSIVE AND WE NEED HELP AS NOTED BELOW.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 DAMASC 00056 071102Z

5. ACTION REQUESTED:

A. STATE AND COMMERCE: APPRECIATE CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS TO OUR LIST, WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON MINERALS LISTED BY HAYDAR AND ACTIVITY SARG IS SEEKING (PARA. 2, ABOVE). WE NEED FULL ADDRESSES AND NAMES OF CONTACTS, IF POSSIBLE.

B. AID: WOULD APPRECIATE AID TEAM COMING TO DAMASCUS JAN. 13
BRINGING WITH THEM APPROPRIATE DIRECTORIES OR LISTS OF COMPANIES
IN MINERAL AND PETROLEUM FIELDS AS DESCRIBED ABOVE.

C. STATE: TIME, INC. "NEWSTOUR" LIST WE HAVE SEEN HERE
INCLUDES MOBIL EXECUTIVE, BUT HE NOT LISTED ON STATE 282200; PLEASE
CABLE NAME OF MOBIL OFFICIAL IF HE ON NEWSTOUR.
MURPHY

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXPLORATION, MINERAL RESERVES, PETROLEUM RESERVES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975DAMASC00056
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750006-0096
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750174/aaaacmop.tel
Line Count: 123
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION COME
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 FEB 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 FEB 2003 by RicharJA>; APPROVED <12 FEB 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SYRIAN REQUEST FOR MINERAL AND PETROLEUM EXPLORATION BY U.S. FIRMS
TAGS: BEXP, BTIO, EMIN, SY, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006